

T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F T H E
L I F E

O F
Katharine de Medicis

Queen Mother

A N D
Regent of *F'RANCE*.

O R,
The Exact Pattern of the Present
French King's Policy.

Licensed *October* 10. 1692.

L O N D O N,
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in *St. Paul's Church-yard*, 1693.

TO THE READER

A
 I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the above named subject. I have the honor to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Your obedient servant,
 J. H. [Signature]

TO THE
READER.

AS no better Office of Honour and Gratitude can be performed to Persons that have by their eminent Vertue, and Heroick Actions, maintained Governments, and preserved their Subjects in the Privileges of Humane Societies, than faithfully to describe to others the History of their Life : So likewise no greater Injury can be done to Posterity, than to bury in Oblivion the cursed Memory of those, whose Ambitious Designs

A 2 for

The Preface.

for Rule and Empire have been managed with such Furious Lusts, that they have not stuck, in their pursuit of them, to commit the basest Villanies. Their Conduct and Practices should be exposed, that the Memory of them, not only for a just Recompence of their wicked Life, may be preserved in the Minds of Men, in Abhorrence of them and such Persons; but their Successors may thereby be deter'd from the Methods by which they destroyed the Common-wealth, and lost the Esteem and Honour that their Dignity otherwise could have claim'd.

For this end, I presume, the Anonymous Author wrote in Latin
the

The Preface.

the History of the Life of Katharine of Medicis, which I have Englished to the Massacre of Paris, and collected the rest of it from the best French Historians.

The whole seems to me to be a Parallel, or rather Pattern (if any such thing could be imagined ever to have existed) of the present French King's Methods of Tyranny at home, and to obtain the Empire of Europe, if the Injustice, Perfidy, Ambition and Cruelty of Katharine and Lewis be considered; only with this difference, that the Copy surpasses the Original.

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I shall not here compare all the Instances of both the Lines of their Lives; We have discoursed of the Parentage and Birth of Queen Katharine, and shall leave his present French Majesty to the Vogue and Opinion of the World: But 'tis certain that as her Accession to the Regency of France, was by the Interest of the Hugonots, so King Lewis enjoying the Crown, was by the Power and Loyalty of the Reformists, both which they themselves declared, she by her Letters to the Prince of Conde, and he by his Declaration at St. Germain, Anno 1652. But no sooner were they settled in the Government,

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ment, but both of them contrived to Destroy their Promoters, and Extirpate the Reformed Religion, the Free Exercise of which had been granted by several Edicts, and if any will see the Evenness of the Parallels, they may take a view of the Account of the Persecutions and Oppressions of the Protestants in France.

I could, I suppose, go on in deducing the present Methods of France, from the Courses Katharine took in her time; for the first Idea that the French King's Ministers had of Murthering by Grandvall his Sacred Majesty William the Third, I do not doubt

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doubt was taken from the Methods Kacharine took to destroy the Prince of Conde, and Poison his whole Army, as you may see in this History.

T H E

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
LIFE
OF

Katharine de Medicis

Queen Mother

A N D

Regent of *FRANCE*.

ITALY, according to the usual *Character*
Proverb, has the Preheminence of Italy.
of all other Nations for Subtilty
and Cunning; and *Tuscany* in that
B excels

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excels the rest of *Italy*, and *Florence Tuscany*, where *Katharine Medicea*, (descended of the Family of *Medici*,) was born. And when the Art of Policy falls by Nature to the share of Persons void of all Religion, as the Natives of that place are, I leave it to be considered, what Mischiefs are to be expected from them.

After that this Family had for a long time been very Obscure, Mean and Undistinguished from the baser sort of the *Florentines*; at length it began, by the Industry of a Coalman that had improved his Stock, to appear, and grow more known. This Collier had a Son a Physician, who from his Profession took his Name and Coat of Arms: As we now see Mechanicks assume the chief Tools of their Trade for their Coats of Arms. As *Stone-Cutters* the Maul or Trowl. and *Tailors* the Scissars; so the Doctor assign'd to himself five Pills, an uneven number, as Physicians commonly
make

make their Prescriptions, for his Coat of Arms; which was for some time strictly observed. And though some, for distinguishing Families, changed the number; yet an uneven number they still retain'd, to inform Posterity, that *He* by his Profession only had arriv'd to a Name: And so this Sirname of *Medici* in the plural number, after the *Italian* Idiom, continues to this day. And if all the Histories of *Florence* were searched, not one word of that Family will be found, (unless by chance it be of late,) though they write of the Civil Discords, and reckon up all the Noble Families that were forced to follow the one or the other of the Parties, and a good Opportunity here offered it self, of making mention of the Family of *Medici*. And *Boccace*, in the Catalogue he wrote of Noble Families, makes no mention of it, or how it received by one *Silvester*, who headed the *Mobb* against the

The Origine
of the Me-
dici.

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Patrioti or Nobles, that Degree of Dignity in which at first it was placed; and afterwards by exchanging of Money, and grievous unjust Usuries enriched; and by base Profuseness, or rather Bribery, claimed the Government of the whole City. And in the Administration of it, which no *Florentine* nor Historian does not witness, endeavoured no other thing, but the Ruin and Extirpation of the Ancient and Illustrious Families of it: And by strange deceitful Methods prevailed so much, that it arrived to its long affected Tyranny, in which its Conduct was such, that by degrees it advanced so far, that the last Duke of *Florence*, that he might the more smoothly wind himself into the Administration of that City, was at first well pleased with a Pension of 12000 Ducats, but before he died was found to have received every Year almost 120000, by Impositions on Trades not Incorporated,

rated, and the Assistance of Strangers he kept in Garison, by whom he well knew to keep his Citizens in Obedience.

Seeing then that troublesome Family is sprung from so mean and obscure a Stock; if the Proverb be true, That *the Country-Cur Snarles always at the Hound*; The Nobility of France may never expect any other thing from Katharine of Medici, but unavoidable and dreadful Ruin; if they suffer her any longer in her Savage and Villanous Lusts to Reign.

The greatest part of the *Florentines* are, as those that converse with them affirm, under no Obligation to Conscience: They desire outwardly to appear Religious, but are not; they love no body but themselves; and are transported with notorious Spight, and great Envy, against all those who in their Opinion, do in Vertue or Greatness excel them: But chiefly (strange Re-

The Humor of the Florentines.

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compence!) against those, of whom they have received good Offices, and know themselves to have been obliged, though to all they endeavour to appear Thankful and Courteous. And though the *Medici* enjoy the Quintessence of all Heroick Vertue, as much as it is faintly or plausibly described by all the Historians of our Age, yet they are in a particular manner noted for Immoderate Profuseness of other Mens Goods, on undeserving Persons; for their more than Savage Lust, but chiefly their profound Dissimulation, fit for all kinds of Treachery.

'Tis not here necessary to produce the obscure Memory of many of them, seeing we have eminent and recent Instances at hand. *Cosmus* and *Laurence* of *Medicis* were for some Large to the Commonalty commended, which was only designed, that thereby they might bring their Native Country under their

their Tyranny, for that Bounty was like a Hook cast into the Water to catch Fishes, and then devour them. But this cannot, neither ought, to be stamp'd with the Name of *Vertue*, for all deliberate Actions which assume that Title, propose no other end than Goodness, and when this Design is not regarded, the name of *Vertue* is lost. And the People of *Florence*, by degrees, though too late, perceived the Disguise, and in the Issue were informed where that Image, or rather shadow of *Vertue*, pointed.

The Medi-
cis's Bounty
no *Vertue*.

But if any is Curious to know the Reason that that Family endeavoured to seem Vertuous for a time, he may soon be satisfied by taking a view of the Lives of *Leo* the Tenth and *Clement* the Seventh; as these two Uncles of the Queen-Mother on her Fathers side, were the chief and greatest Ornaments of that Family, so they are by us with good reason produced before

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the rest: For they being placed in so high a Dignity and Post, may in that Eminence be better seen by all, than in the Croud of the Populace or Civil Disorders.

What sort of Men they were, we may see, if we can give Credit to *Guicciardine* the Florentine, a strong Maintainer of the *Medicean* Faction, and to *Paulus Jovius* Bishop of *Como*, a great lover of that Family, who in their Histories, being carried on all along with a Religious Reverence to the Apostolical Chair, spared them as much as they could.

Leo the Tenth, in Countenance and Temper, is said to resemble the Queen-Mother, before he was created Pope, according to the common Aphorism amongst them, *A Man is obliged to appear good, but not to be good*, made or rather counterfeited so great a shew of Religion and Piety, that all Men openly proclaimed themselves happy

in his Election, not only in Hopes and Expectation of publick Peace, but also every one for his private Repose, which was by the Desires of all wished, after so many various Commotions and Civil Wars raised by *Julius* the Second his Predecessor: But as soon as he was set into the Pontifical Chair, and advanced to that Dignity, than which nothing more could be hoped, how suddenly he changed was apparent to all. He sowed Dissentions and raised Feuds amongst Christian Princes, and feigned a secret Friendship for *Charles* the Emperor, and *Francis* the Second King of France, who were implacable Enemies to one another; and at one and the same time promised both of them Supplies, his Mediation and Friendship, that he might the more provoke them to War. He proclaimed a Jubilee, and ordered Processions to be made; and in that very time being drowned in Pleasures, indulged

*Leo X. his
Dissimula-
tion, &c.*

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dulged himself in all Sensuality. I cannot tell how many Bulls he made against the *Turks*, on design to enrich Rogues, Bawds and Parasites, and promised Indulgences to all that would buy them; which was employed in profuse Expences, immoderate Gifts, and the Lusts of *Magdalene* his Sister; to which use likewise the Mony for the Indulgences of *Germany* was employed. And therefore *Luther*, as *Guicciardine* says, took an occasion to declaim against Purgatory, and ground to oppose the Pope; and what happened thereon thorough Christendom, none is ignorant.

Leo seemed to be strangely Munificent, but that Munificence was drawn out of the Treasures that Pope *Julius* amassed, notwithstanding the great Wars he maintained; and likewise he raked it every where out of the Church Benefices, which he bestowed and distributed on his Kindred, Friends
and

and Servants both *Tuscans* and *Florentines*; and so diminished *Peter's* Patrimony more and more, while he imposed new Taxes, and farm'd them to Strangers: That Munificence was out of the Mony that (to the double) he exacted by Croisades throughout Christendom, which he bestowed to enrich some particular Friends: And in the mean time left Seeds of Division and Discord in the Church, which yet she feels and for ever will. He for a long time so spoiled and impoverished the Clergy, Mortgaged the Church-Revenue in *Italy*, that nothing was left to his Successor; whence came the Proverb, That *Leo's Pontificate continued after his Death*; and finally to raise some superbe Coloss, or to adorn a Portal he unriddg'd the whole Building.

Now let us come to *Clement*, the other Uncle of Queen *Katharine* on her Father's side, who was,
con-

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Pope Clement VII.
his Character.

contrary to the Decrees of the Church that exclude Bastards from the Cardinalship, made a Cardinal, and then by Money and Promises having procured the Votes of the Conclave, created Pope. He that in other Affairs had carried himself Craftily, is by his own Servants, from a Conviction of Truth, thus decyphered. He every where talked of making War on the *Turks*, and in that very time sowed Discords amongst the Christian Princes, joyning himself now to one of them, and then to another, and sometimes to both of them, that he might thereby nourish their Enmities: He professed openly to persecute Hereticks, and was so good a Catholick, that he was not ashamed to send to all places for Philosophers to *Rome*, and ordained them Disputations of the Soul, *Whether it is Immortal or not?* And flew out to that height of Impiety and Blasphemy, that he said
he

he could never be brought to believe that Opinion, That the Soul is *Immortal*. Likewise he treated a Peace with the Emperor and the French King, and other Princes: He thought it silly, without Gain, to make good his Promise; and so at length when he promised any thing, though with a mind to perform it, no body believed him, which is the Reward of Deceitful Persons. This Humour appeared in him in all the Affairs he managed with Christian Princes, and the Cruel Revenge he took on those of *Florence*, after it was surrendered to him, in killing Barbarously the most Eminent Citizens, contrary to the express Articles of the Capitulation.

101 When Authors describe his Temper they tell us, his great Pleasure was Dissimulation: He promoted those only to Preferments and honourable Employments, without any regard to Honesty, that were (for

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a secret Reason, we need not mention by its proper Name) more agreeable to him: But good and deserving Persons he caressed only with fair words, (as was the Humour of his Neece) but in his Heart perfectly hated not only such, but all those that had done him any good Office. *Jovius* in his History does attest the Truth of this, *Clement*, says he, *rejoyced more in the Death of Prince Uranius than the Surrender of the Town and the obtaining the Popedom, for fear Prince Uranius should, for the Reward of his Service, demand his Neece Katharine in Marriage, of which he had before given him hopes, to engage him more willingly to his Assistance.* But at last he was in all his Actions mistrusted by the Christian Princes, hated by the Court of Rome, and died so Odious to all, that his own Physician, who was not free from Suspicion of Poysoning him, received hearty Thanks from all sorts of

Paul. Jov.
lib. 29.

Paul. lib. 32
Guicciard.
lib. 20.

of Persons for the good Service he had done the Christian World, *Paul. Jov. lib. 32.* and that he had cured Rome of her Weariness of so Cruel a Tyrant. See then who and what manner of Men *Katharine's* Uncles were, of whom I have said nothing, but what is by the best Authors of our Age Recorded; and am certain that more, and things of a more heinous nature, might by those acquainted with them, have been said of them.

But if any had enquired of these, of *Laurence de Medicis* the Father of the Queen-Mother, what sort of Man he was. I do not doubt they would freely have said he was a Man consummate in all kinds of Wickedness, wholly given to Whoring and Incest, inflamed with Ambition, in whom no Vice was wanting, but power of doing mischief: And if any would be informed of the other *Laurence* Cousin-German to this, he counterfeited an intimate Friend-

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Friendship a whole Year with *Alexander Medicis*, and was a Servant and Drudge to his Lusts : He sought an occasion to ensnare *Strossius* and the rest of *Alexander's* Enemies: He Pimp'd him to all the Women he desired, without regard to cursed Incest ; and at last having enticed him to his House, with hopes and under colour of enjoying a certain Lady, he with his own hand Murthered him when he was fast asleep in Bed.

Now you see what dreadful things the place of *Katharine's* Birth, her Race, and the Actions of her Kindred bid us expect from her self.

Anno 1519.
Katharine
born.

Her Parents, about the time of her Birth, which was *April 13.* being Curious, as all *Florentines* are, to know from the Aspects of the Stars (for they threaten many things) the Fortune of her Life, sent every where for Skillful Astrologers to come to her Nativity. Amongst the rest there was one

Astrologers
cast Katha-
rine's Na-
tivity.

Basilus

Basilus a Mathematician, who had some time foretold the late Duke of *Florence*, when he had no thoughts of the Dukedom, that that great Dignity was reserved for him.

The Opinions and Sentiments of these Astrologers in the form of a Consultation are recorded, and yet being extant may be had. All of them with an unanimous consent foretold, That she would, if she should live, be the Author of unavoidable Ruin and Destruction to the Family into which she should be married. Her Parents therefore being surpris'd with such a Prediction, resolv'd at first to expose her, as another *Paris* who was the Fire-brand of *Asia*: But natural Affection prevailing on them, they determin'd by a careful Education to correct her natural Inclinations, and so elude the Predictions of the Astrologers, by not allowing her to Marry.

Predictions concerning her.

C

Soon

Florence
besieged
An. 1530.

Soon after this it happened, that when the *Florentines* designed to free and deliver themselves from the Tyranny of the *Medici*, *Florence* was in the Year 1530 besieged by the Instigation of Pope *Clement*, who desired to keep them under Tyranny. The Prediction concerning *Katharine* could not be concealed; for *Clare* of *Medici* her Aunt, Wife to *Philip Strossius*, the implacable Enemy of our *Medici*, whom she reputed Bastards, together with some others that could not keep a Secret, understood the matter; these therefore that heard it, not thinking that *Katharine* could be married into a Royal Family, judged her to be born for Mischief and the Destruction of their Town, chiefly because *Clement* had in the first place demanded of them his Neece: The *Florentines* called a full Council, some advised to hang her in a Basket from the Town-Wall, that she might

Consultations
to destroy
Katharine.

might be by some Shot or other killed; and a certain Preacher perswaded the chief Men of the City to this Expedient. Others were of opinion that she should, when grown up, be put into some Bawdy-house: Others said that she ought to be taken from the Abbess she was with, and carried to the Nunnery of the *Emurte*, whence she was never to come out. All agreed in this, that she should not be restored to her Uncle *Clement*. In fine, their Opinion prevailed, which in appearance was the Milder, yet really the more Severe, who advised to leave her in the hands of the Nuns, with whom she was until the Surrender of the Town.

Clement had in the time of the Siege promised her in Marriage to Prince *Uranus*, and when he was Dead, in favour to the Emperor, to *Francis Stortius* Duke of *Milan*, and now promised her to another;

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but at last desire of Revenge contrived an unhappy Match; for *Francis* the first of that Name, King of *France*, resenting the hard Usage he had from the Emperor in his Imprisonment, and not forgetful of the unreasonable Terms of his Freedom; and Pope *Clement* also, for the Sacking of *Rome*, and his own Imprisonment, were highly displeased at the Emperor (for the Pope said he was so dealt with by the Connivance of *Charles*) who a little before being made an Arbitrator, adjudged the Town *Modena* to the Duke of *Ferrara*, which he himself thought to have obtained. Therefore both of them impatient of Revenge for the Injuries done them, and distrustful of their own Strength, the one of them stood in need of the Papal Authority, and the other of French Supplies. The King therefore proposed by the Cardinals *Turon* and *Gramont*, a Marriage of *Henry* Duke of *Aurleans* with *Katharine*

tharine the Pope's Neice. *Clement* above all things so passionately desired it, that he could not persuade himself, or let it enter into his mind that they were in earnest. He acquaints the Emperor with the Business, to whose Authority, for the Alliance confirmed between them by the Marriage of *Laurence* of *Medici* with his Daughter, he feigned to commit himself. The Emperor replied, *That that was but a Dream, and soon he would find it so, if he would but feign himself willing to hasten on the Business.* To be short, such Diligence was used in this Affair, that immediately Terms were proposed by both Parties; and soon after the Contract was sealed, by which, for *Katharine's* Portion, was with great Privacy assigned the vain Hopes of the Dutchys of *Urbine*, *Milan*, *Parma*, *Placentia* and *Modena*; for recovering of which, the Pope promised to give his Assistance. In

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the mean time the Emperor finding himself mistaken in his Opinion, and fearing that by that Marriage new Commotions might arise in *Italy*, sends Ambassadors immediately to *Clement*, to solicit and persuade him not to believe the *French King*: *Clement* replies, *That the whole Christian World, as well by the number of the Lutherans, as the Defection of the King of England, was in so great Distraction, that he stood in need of the Assistance of so Powerful a King; that thereby he might more easily reconcile those that were at Variance and divided amongst themselves. And moreover, that the Emperor should not fear this new Confederacy, since he would rather interpose himself an Arbitrator of Peace, than be a Maintainer of War; and that he had given one in Marriage to France, which would in some time embroil that whole State.* This the Pope promised from the Prediction of the Astrologers, or rather Reflecting

*The Pope's
Infallibility.*

flecting on his own Temper and Stock, trusted that his Neece would never degenerate from him.

At length the Marriage was consummated at *Marseilles* in the Year 1533, where the King and Pope had a Conference. The Pope could never persuade himself of that Marriage, until he saw the Bridegroom and Bride together in Bed. Here we may see Instructions from the Stars, Predictions from Astrologers, the Opinion of a Pope, the Originals of this Marriage. *Katharine* escaped the Nunnery, is rescued from the Thundering of the Cannon, and delivered from the Stews, that at last she may be married to the King of *France* his Son.

The Marriage of Katharine with Henry

Now let us see how she began the fulfilling of these Famous Prophecies, and how far she did not degenerate from her Family. I shall not insist on her Juvenile Years, with what a degree of Ambition she then was corrupted, it is no

The fulfilling the Predictions

hard Task to Conjecture ; and it is sufficiently known to all, how great and strong Suspensions were raised of her for the Death of the Dauphin the eldest Son of the Duke of *Orleans*, whom she was thought to have killed by Poyson: Also how cruelly she continually hated him whom the King dearly loved, and was for his Princely Vertues much honoured by all the *French* Nobility: What Jealousies she stirred up between the two Brothers, and what Familiarity and Friendship she maintained with those who were suspected Guilty of that Abominable Murther. And when *Francis* Duke of *Anguen* came into Reputation and great Esteem with all Men, what bitter and secret Enmity she practised against him ; What Methods she suggested to *Henry* her Husband then Dauphin ; and put him on to destroy him ; until at length *Cornelius Bentivaglius* dispatched him by Poyson at

la Roche-guyen. And when she saw that she was both for her Barrenness, her depraved and wicked Temper, to be put away and sent into *Italy*; in that case she enticed *Diana*, then great Seneschal, which soon after was Dutcheß of *Valentinois*, to entertain *Francis*, together with her own Husband the Dauphine in her Amours. She was not ashamed to play the Bawd, so that she might obtain her Designs.

These were most vile and base Crimes, evident signs of the great Miseries, of which she was the only cause; yet they will in a manner be reckoned inconsiderable, if compared with those she committed after she got her self into the Government. And I desire the Reader to take notice of this part of her Life: For according to the old Saying, *The Humour of one cannot be better seen, than when advanced to Rule.*

When

*The History of the Life of**Katharine's
Policy.*

When *Katharine*, after the Death of *Francis* the First, had Children, by Methods well known, and found her self out of Danger of being put away; she strove continually to thrust her self into the Administration of the Government; and therefore appeared willing to comply with the Constable: By this way she thought, first to get some footing, and then to skrew her self wholly into the Management of Affairs. The Constable, though he did not much desire it, yet to satisfy the Womans Humour, proposed the Matter to the King, who at first gave him a cold, faint and doubtful Answer; but afterwards (as many say) impatient of that Discourse, answered, *That he knew not his Wifes Temper; For* (says he, using this very Expression) *she is the greatest Confounder of all things, and if once she had Power, would confound the whole Government.* Yet he could not hinder her, but

but that about the time of the *German* Expedition, she was admitted for a short time, and was so limited, that little or no disadvantage could thence accrue to the publick Affairs.

And she by an *Italian* Craft, shewed her self a Thrifty House-wife, that afterwards she might steal privily into the Management of greater Matters: And likewise because she would not in the beginning give the French any dislike of her Administration.

Henry being dead, for whom *Katharine* did not long Mourn, *Francis* her eldest Son succeeded, who favoured the *Guises*, Uncles to the Queen of *Scotland* his Wife, and committed to them the Administration of all Affairs: They bearing no good Will to *Katharine*, made little or no way for her to come into the Government, because they said, *That it was easier to keep her out than put her*

*Katharines
Dexterity.*

her out. She then considering that the Princes of the Blood were driven far away from the Court, and the chief Ministers of the Crown ill treated, resolved to stir them up to contend for the Administration, that while she should feign her self an Arbiter of the Dissentions, she might obtain her Design: Therefore she goes to the Dutches of *Montpensier*, a Lady of excellent Wit, whom she loved better than the rest, and complains to her, that the Administration of the Government was taken from the Princes of the Blood, and the lawful Ministers of State, and bestowed on Strangers: That the Constable and his Sons, together with his Nephews the *Chatillons*, with whom she passionately desired to be well acquainted, were neglected, and that no Authority remained in the chief Ministers of the Crown, for the discharging so many and so great Offices, and that she her self,
the

the Wife of the late, and Mother of the present King, was openly despised: And in plain terms, she called the *Guises Administration*, a *Tyrannical Usurpation*, the undoubted beginning of their affecting the Crown, on pretence of their Descent from *Charles* the Great. She seem'd by an earnest Love of the Safety of the Kingdom, to express her self in this manner. On the other side she knew that the *Dutchess* favoured the Opinion of the *Lutherans*, and stuck to them: And that about the end of *Henry's* Reign, a great many of them were every where found in *France*, and countenanced by the Princes of the Blood: Therefore she pretends an Aversion to the Cruelty with which they raged against them, and is desirous to hear their Tenets, that now she might be thought willing to be instructed in them, bids them compose Prayers for her in their Confessions,

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sistories, and so promised them her Help and Assistance, as if she wish'd nothing more than their good Success. The Dutcheß of *Montpensier* at the Queens desire imparted this Discourse to the King of *Navar* and Prince of *Conde*; and also by her means *Charles Marlac* Archbishop of *Vienne* acquainted the Constable, and told it to a great many more, whose Interest it was to harken to a Business of such Concernment, and who seemed Heartily to wish the Advancement of it: But the Wiser part of them perceiving the Queens Ambition, and having had trial enough of the Proneness of her Humour to confound all things, would not at her Persuasion adventure in this Affair. Yet the report being buz'd among so many, that the Queen endeavoured to make some Change, some of them resolved to shelter themselves under her Inclinations.

Here-

Hereupon followed that Expedition of *Amboise*, which consisted of two sorts of Men; some were offended at the *Guises* Administration of the Government, others, the *Lutherans*, were by the Cruelties exercised on them greatly provoked, and relying on the Favour of the Queen, hoped to be by her protected, if they by any way should drive the *Guises* out of the Government. But this Expedition in the Issue proved (as all know) Unfortunate to the Contrivers, but especially the Leaders of it.

The Queen therefore alters her Design, and prepares to contrive and frame her self, for the time to come, to the Opinion of the *Guises*, because they had so strengthened themselves in the Government, that it was impossible to thrust them out of it. And that she might obtain their Favour, doth expressly declaim against the Authors of that Expedition, and said, The Conspiracy

*The Queen
changeth
her Opinion.*

The History of the Life of

racy was laid against her self, and was often present at their Sufferings, thereby to declare that she approved of the Sentence the *Guisean* Party gave: And moreover, that she might comply with them in all things, so much prevailed with the Cardinal of *Borbon*, that he put his own Brother into Prison. She contracted an intimate Friendship with the Cardinal of *Lovain*, who managed things in that manner as all know. She commanded to keep the Vidame of *Chartres* a close Prisoner, who when he saw them condemned to Dye, whose Assistance she had formerly used, he declared, That she was the cause of the Ruin of the whole Kingdom. And finally, that she might in all things gratifie the *Guises*, said, That the Princes of the Blood received no Wrong, if after the first Prince of the Blood, the first of *Lorraine* should take place; and the second of them after the second Prince of the

Opposeth the Precedency of the Princes of the Blood; and was the first cause of the Civil War.

the Blood, and so-forth the one after the other, which indeed was never desired or thought on by the Princes of *Lorrain*. But all this was levelled, that at length she might come into the Administration of the Government, to which she had long aspired. It is plain therefore, that *Katharine* was the chief and sole cause of that first Commotion from which, as from a Source, all the rest sprung.

Francis died, to whom *Charles* the Ninth, about the Age of Eleven Years succeeded, whose Disposition, if it had not been spoiled by his Mother, promised many great things; she then, for the time of his Minority, would fain have administered the Government, but was afraid that the King of *Navar*, the first Prince of the Blood, should, as his Right, assume that Charge, and leave her no share in it; and was the more in fear, because she perceived him joyned in great Friendship

D

ship

Katharine
is for the
Liberty of
the Prince
of Conde.

ship to the Constable; the *Chatillons* his Nephews, and other great Ministers of the Crown. Now therefore she declares her Earnestness for the Innocency and Liberty of the Prince of Conde, to procure the Favour of the King of Navar. And by the means of the Dutchesse of Montpensier, who suspected no Evil, drew in the *Chatillons* on design to advance her own Religion, to which they for some Years had been Adherents; and by the *Chatillons* brought over the Constable to her Party. So that the King of Navar, being of an easie Temper, and a greater lover of his own Pleasures than the publick Safety, partly of his own Inclination, partly by the Advice of his Friends, came to this Resolution, to have the Queen Conjunct with him in the Administration; in which also they should consult the Princes of the Blood, and Ministers of the Crown.

Now

Now the Queen had advanced pretty far; but this did not suffice; she desired to govern alone according to her own Will. And not long after this, the Convention of States, called by *Francis* the Second, was held, in which she carried her self so nimbly, that she obtained her desire, though the Administration was by the particular Conventions of the Provinces decreed to the King of *Navar*.

The King of *Navar* secretly and underhand favoured the *Hugonots*, who were very Numerous and more than was believed, and daily many of the Nobility and common People joyned them. *Katharine*, in Imitation of him, privily so assisted them, that they expected a safe and better Refuge from her than the King of *Navar*; for she publicly professed that she found nothing unreasonable in their Opinions; and also commanded some, that long ago had been esteemed

Her. assisting the Hugonots and approving their Opinions.

The History of the Life of

Peter Mar-
tyr preaches
before her.

Lutherans, to preach before her, such as the Bishop of *Valence*, *Bontallerius* and some others; but amongst the rest chiefly *Peter Martyr*, whom she not only attentively heard Discourse on the controverted Points of Religion, for which not a few of the *Catholicks* were grievously offended; but also conferred and discoursed with the chief *Hugonot* Ministers, read their Prayer-Books, granted their Petitions, and took care to be recommended to their Churches and Consistories, and ordered to supply them with Mony, that from all places they might be assembled at the Conference at *Passy*; and told them, that she would have her self, the King, and her other Sons, instructed in their Religion. I leave every good *Catholick* to judge the meaning of this, seeing the *Hugonots* were persecuted by the former Kings, and never by Law permitted the Exercise of their Religion. She

An. 1561.

so Wheedled the Prince of Conde, and the three Brothers of Chatillon, that they said that they had more Favour shewn them by the Queen, than by the King of Navar: And therefore went more freely and boldly to her than to him. And in the mean time she with a counterfeited Countenance looked pleasantly on them all, and apart encouraged the Catholicks, telling them, that to shun Discords she took such Measures with the Hugonots. But which of their Religions should stand or fall, so that she could obtain her Design, she did not care. Moreover she entertained the King of Navar, whose Disposition she well knew, with the Diversions and Pleasures of the Court: And besides this, she commanded one of her Maids of Honour, with whom he was in love, to gratifie him in all things; to the end that he thereby neglecting his Business, might make all Persons weary of him.

The History of the Life of

And the Queen was not deceived in her Opinion, but so far prevailed, that notwithstanding the Opposition of some particular Statutes, that set out the Authority of our *Salick Law*, and our ill Luck under a Female Administration, the King of *Navar*, by his Carelesness, and some others pick'd out on purpose, did judge, that the Administration should be put into her Hands, as one that would take care of the Safety of her Son and the Kingdom. The Admiral and *Mortilian* managed the Business with the States, one of which was rewarded for it with Death, and the other with everlasting Hatred, as all those were that had done any Service to the Family of *Medici*. So then the Queen, for her private Advantage, joyned with the *Hugonots*, and was glad to see them more and more Increase; and bids them quit their Holes and skulking places, and appear Publickly and preach openly:

She

She did this, not to approve more
 their, than our Catholick Religion,
 but only that she might withdraw
 them from the King of Navar.
 Yet she was in some measure the
 cause of the Edict of *January*, by ^{1562.}
 which they had granted to them *The Queen*
 the Free Exercise of their Religion *procures*
 in the Suburbs of the Cities, under *and dis*
 the Veil of which Edict, they co- *proves the*
 vered themselves for defence in all *Edict.*
 the Civil Wars. But 'tis strange
 that she should after this Edict,
 when the *Hugonots* of *Roan* had, in
 Obedience to it, betaken themselves
 to the Suburbs of the Town, by
 many Demonstrations declare her
 self to disapprove that Liberty, and
 say that it was like to prove Preju-
 dicial to the State.

But to obtain the Government
 did not suffice the Queen, it was
 Grievous to her to endure Con-
 trolers in the Administration of it.
 The Constable was wont to restrain
 her, and the *Guises* in *Francis* the

The History of the Life of

Second's time kept her under. Therefore Care must be taken by some Snaistrous way, to put them out of the Council. The States of the Kingdom marvelled to find the Government so much in Debt; seeing the late Kings had raised such great Summs of Mony on their Subjects; and would fain have those that had the Charge of the Treasury brought to an Account for it, and the profuse Expending of it inspected. But that too nearly touched the great ones themselves; nor could an Affair of so great a Concern, be undertaken without the Envy of the Constable, the Guises, and the Mareschal St. Andre, who under the late Kings held the Management of Affairs in their own hands. The Queen Importunes the States to bend all their care to take an account of them of these Matters; and promises never to be wanting to them in so just a thing. They therefore resolve on it,

it, and design to manage it by some notable Men on purpose delegated by themselves for the Business, with this Qualification, that during the time of examining the Accounts; no Obnoxious Person should be permitted to sit in Council.

Now the Queen thinks that she has rarely well managed her part with the Prince of Conde, the *Chatillons*, and the rest of the *Hugonots* of *France*, who daily increased by her Favour. But on a sudden another Faction sprung up that strongly opposed her. For the King of *Navar* finding himself by the Queen, while he indulged himself in Amours, to be almost thrown out of the Saddle, disdains them, and all those Pleasures she endeavoured to obtrude on him; and began to bestir himself to bring her into the *Briars*. He was wont formerly to take Advice of the *Chatillons*; but now slights them as the Authors of the Queens Conduct, and is at Defiance

*The Effects
of Pleasure.*

The History of the Life of

*The King
of Navar's
Methods to
recover
himself.*

ance with them. He recalls the
Mareschal *Saint Andre*, whom for
some Offence done him in the Reign
of *Francis* the Second, he had driven
from Court, and enters into an
Alliance with him, because the
Queen hated him. In the mean
time the *Guises* took unkindly the
Affront of being called to an account,
after so many good Offices they
had done, and did not let pass the
Opportunity of their Disagreement,
for they encouraged the King of
Navar with hopes of getting the
Kingdom of *Sardinia* in satisfaction
for the Kingdom of *Navar*; and
promised to prevail with the Pope,
to approve by his Bull the Divorce
of his Wife, which he earnestly desired;
and finally to bring it about that
the Queen of *Scotland* should be
married to him. At the same time
one *Baldwine* a Lawyer came to see
him, who so deterred him from
changing his Religion, to which he
then seemed to be inclined, that
soon

*His vain
Hopes.*

soon after it appeared that he had renounced the Hatred he bore the *Guises*, and conceived an Enmity against the *Hugonots*.

The Constable on the other side perceiving the *Hugonots* daily to increase, and himself by little and little to be forsaken, seriously bestinks himself how to apply a Remedy to this Evil, and as well for his Affection to the Church, because descended of the first Christian of *France*, as for his own Security from the Attempts and Undertakings of the Queen, returns into greater Favour with the King of *Navar*, and reconciles himself to the *Guises*. From thence sprung another Party of the King of *Navar*, the Constable, *Guises* and *Sant Andre*, who as one Man were prepared and in a readiness both to keep under the Queens Authority, and stop the Progress of the *Hugonots* whom she defended.

The Constable reconciled to the *Guises*.

The History of the Life of

Matters being thus contrived, immediately a notable Tragedy comes to be acted; they contend for the Government of *Paris*, and Preheminence at Court. The Queen sends for the Prince of *Conde* to come to Court, with the Nobility that were his Friends. The Constable too a little after arrives there, who for the Esteem the City had of him, had the better Interest. The Queen perswades the Prince of *Conde* to call all his Friends and Acquaintance to Court, and keep close to the King, but could not for the wary *Guises*. In the mean time the Queen is vexed, and complains that she found her self and the King her Son to be Captives under their Power, and that they designed to steal her other Son, and carry him into *Louvain*. Therefore she wrote to the Prince of *Conde* to take Arms, and prays him, out of Pity to the Mother and Children, not to suffer them

*The Queen
moves the
Prince of
Conde to
take Arms.*

them so to keep her Prisoner.

The Prince moved with her Intreaty, enters *Orleans*, takes several other Towns, and Assembles from places thereabout his Friends, and Acquaintance, and perswades them every where to take Arms, which doubtless he, nor the *Chatillons* would never have done, without the importunate Complaints of the Queen. But when she perceived they could not set her at Liberty, and that the King's Presence did strangely strengthen the opposite Party, she thinks to Dissemble to make her self Judge between them. For in the mean while Messengers, Letters and private Instructions are sent to the Prince of *Conde* (all quite contrary to that she openly spoke and wrote to cajole the Catholics) earnestly intreating him to go on: And tells him, That she would hereafter so put the King in mind of this Kindness, that he should never forget it. And with-
all

The History of the Life of

And encour-
rageth him.

all warns him not to be troubled with any Letters writ in hers or the King's Name, since they were under Restraint both in Body and Mind. Moreover that she and the King had fully resolved together to have come privately to *Orleans*, but that one *Sarsan* her House-keeper had frightned her from that Resolution. This she did to keep the Prince of *Conde* steady in his Resolution, and that his Authority might be the more maintained, the Forces kept together, that Supplies of Men and Mony might be sent for to *England* and *Germany*. This Effect, I say, the Trust and Authority of the Queens Letters produced, which shewed that the Prince of *Conde* had by her expresse Command taken up Arms for to set the King at Liberty, that what easily might have been composed, she by this means lengthened out in long Delays, provoked Mens Spirits, and stirred them up against
one

She the sole
Author of
the War.

one another: So with cheerful Looks; she entertained the Catholicks, but in the main, fed the *Hugonots* with Hope, till the King of *Navar* her Rival was killed at *Roan*, in whose Death she took incredible Pleasure. 1562.
Now see the Queen, who (as we have often said) regarded nothing but her own Ambition, far changed from the Person she was, and altogether Averse to her former Design. You have seen her applauding the *Hugonots*, and professing her self in Imitation of the Queen of *Navar*, one of them. Now you will perceive her most Catholick Indignation against the Prince of *Conde*.

As long as the King of *Navar* lived a Competitor in the Government, she took part against him with the Prince of *Conde* and the *Hugonots*; but when she, by his Death, found her self at Liberty, and well assured to keep without Difficulty the Precedence amongst the

The History of the Life of

the Catholicks, immediately she conceived the greatest Hatred to the Prince of *Conde*, whom she was not Ignorant, to be nearest in Blood to the King of *Navar*; and was afraid lest he, being raised, should have demanded the Administration. Now her Letters are of quite another Strain than they were three days ago, when she perswaded him to take up Arms, which procured him the Envy and Hatred of many Princes, and of the chief Nobility, and which is more, of all *France*. Now she commands him to lay down those Arms she had patronized, and give up the Towns he had taken, which if he did not, she would declare War against him: She designed nothing but his Ruin and Destruction, and that by weakening the *Hugonots*, she might more easily overcome the Catholicks, and at length dash both Parties to pieces. Now then to begin, she sent the Prince

Prince of Conde an Empoisoned Pomgranate by *Renate* her own Perfumer a *Milaneſe*, which unleſs one *Groſſius* a Surgeon, ſuſpecting Poyſon to be in the Apple, had ſnatched it out of his Hands (which while he meant to ſmell, did preſently make his Face ſwell) had certainly ſoon after been ſtified by it; for tryal was made on a Dog, who when he had eaten ſome pairings of it mix'd with Bread, ſuddenly died.

The Queen endeavoured to Poiſon the Prince of Conde.

Now the Queen renews the War afreſh, and that againſt the Opinion of all the Nobility that had the Conduct of the Army, drags it along, eſpecially againſt the Will of the *Guiſes* and the Conſtable, who well knew her Mind. That Bloody Battle at *Dreux* was fought by her Advice, in which what loſs *France* ſuſtained cannot be expreſſed, and ſhe alone triumphed and remained Victorious. We on our ſide

Decem. 19. 1562. The Battle of Dreux.

The History of the Life of

lost ¹⁵⁶¹ *Angoulême* and almost an infinite number more, that were Noble both by Birth and Vertue. The *Hugonots* lost but few eminent Persons, the loss of whom she reckoned her gain. She had the Prince of *Conde* Prisoner, and rejoiced that the Constable, whom for his Freedom of Speech she feared more than any other, was in the Power of the *Hugonots*: She wanted only to be freed from the Duke of *Guise*, whom she sent to Besiege *Orleans*, where *Andelot* was with so great a Body of the best Soldiers, that it was a very hard thing to take the place, but with a great loss of ours, which to her had been the greatest Victory. It happened that the Duke of *Guise* was, in the manner as all know, killed by *Poltro*; but whether the Queen was affected for his Death with Joy or Sorrow, the Duke's Brothers were competent Judges of it: But none is ignorant that she, in presence of the Prince
of

*The Prince
of Conde
and Constable
Prisoners.*

*Febrs 24.
An. 1563.*

of *La Roche-furyon*, bragged that she was rid of her greatest Enemy: And replied to the Prince of *Conde*, when he said, *That the Kingdom of France was rid of a huge Burden: If the Kingdom be freed of one Burden, her Mind was freed from more than Ten Burdens.* Here is a Reward for Dangers, here are Thanks for Services, and even for Death it self; such as all those got, that shewed themselves serviceable to that *Medea*. She had vowed to race out quite and clean the Memory of the *Hugonots*. But the Admiral was more Powerful than to permit her, being Lord of all *Neustria*, who having paid his Light *Normandy*. Horse-men, had marched back to *Orleans* on design to fight: But we had no Commanders to sustain a Battle, and if we should be beaten, as there was a great Hazard of it, the Prince of *Conde* must be set at Liberty, who perchance would demand the Administration. There-

fore Peace is to be chosen, and the War delay'd to another Opportunity, when she may more handsomely destroy all the rest.

The Prince of *Conde* at that time was in Love with one *Liniellie*, whom the Queen gave him for his Diversion, (such strange Methods she used to carry on her Designs,) but he notwithstanding began to be weary of a Prison, and on the other side, so was the Constable. Therefore she so hurries on a Peace, and in few days concludes it, that the Prince of *Conde* had not time to send the Articles of it to the Admiral, and consult him on them. The Queen did this, on purpose to throw (as she had begun) all the blame of the Civil War on the Duke of *Guise*; and that he alone for it, might bear the Curses of all; seeing that he being Dead, Peace was again restored to *France*. By that Peace the Exercise

The Queen made a Peace, and blames the Guises for the War.

cise of Religion was granted to the Hugonots, but not in so full a manner as by the Edict of January. Their taking up Arms is approved; the Foreign Soldiers are paid out of the Treasury. The English would have at that time kept a Port-Town, but by an Army on purpose composed of Catholics and Hugonots it was taken from them; in which Army was the Prince of Conde and others, all who unanimously gave many Demonstrations to the Enemy, how Loyal Servants they were to their King. At their return from this Expedition, the Queen desired that the King her Son, about fourteen or fifteen Years of Age, might be freed from his Governours, though not a few thought it sooner than was fit: But 'tis no hard matter to judge on what account she was induced to this.

The History of the Life of

*Dispute for
the Admi-
nistration.*

When the Prince of Conde had a little before appeared willing to undertake the Administration, because he was the nearest of Kin, the Queen opposed to him the Cardinal of Bourbon, his eldest Brother, to whom she said the Administration did no less belong, though he was a Church-man, than to him. That therefore in this Affair she might remove all occasion of Dispute, and that the great ones might not for the time to come, have any thing to do with her, and there might not be any assembling of the States; which ought every two Years to be held, during the King's Minority; she proclaims him to be of Age, that she in the King's Name might rule all things according to her own Pleasure, and make him say whatever she desired him. And this within two days after manifestly appeared, in the surly Expressions his Mother taught him to treat the Grandees, even the Members

Members of Council; when formerly our late Kings, though of Age, judged their ~~Prerogative~~ ^{Prerogative} could not be better settled, than by the Advice of their chief Ministers of State, and Officers of War. But now the Authority of a Privy Council, in which they gave their opinion of the weightiest Affairs of our State, began to decay, and a secret Cabal was kept with two or three Knaves, whom the Queen, in Imitation of her Uncle *Clement*, to conceal some of her Intrigues, made use of: Particularly one *Peiron*, who formerly was a Commissary, but now Marechal of *France*.

The King in the mean time being declared to be of Age, was as Ignorant of Affairs, as when he was a Pupil, and the Queen would have him understand no more than a Mute in a Play, that walks only up and down the Theatre, or

*The King
declared of
Age.*

speaks only what is whispered into his Ear. The King on the other part, when his Mother had taken him, when but Young, and beginning then to Reign, from his Preceptors, exercised himself in Childish Plays, and by an unlucky Omen took pleasure in Cock-fighting: So endeavoured she to corrupt his tender Youth, and by Debauchees, whom she set over him, enticed him to Pleasures, and for his sake she her self was not ashamed to play the Bawd, as formerly she had done to the King of Navar and Prince of Conde, to Intangle and Besot them with Pleasures, that she might take them off from the Cares of their own Concerns; for she engaged the Prince of Conde, to make him Odious to his Friends, into the Amours of Lineville, who at length proving to be with Child, was dissemblingly chid by the Queen, to whom she replied, That by her Example and Command she was brought

to

Corrupted
by the Queen

to that pass. The rest I cannot abide to relate.

The King came never to Council, but by the Importunity of some that were much concerned for his ill Education. The Queens Ambitious Mind was grievously vexed, that the Constable only, who so long had been at the Helm of Affairs, neither suffered her solely to manage all Business, nor in all things assented to her; and the more because she saw him, notwithstanding the difference of Religion, to entertain Friendship with the *Chatillons* his Nephews. She understood, but was much displeased, that the Nobility of France, both *Catholicks* and *Hugonots*, together with the Populace it self, were united and joyned together in the Bond of Peace; and that every where Hatred and Enmity were extinguish'd. Therefore she feared that the Princes, because of this

Place is
hateful to
the Queen.

this Agreement, and the Commonalty, by their Example and Influence, should refuse to pay the Loans and Assessments, for they were daily augmented, and profusely spent in Bribes and Gifts, (for which some murmured,) contrary to an express Decree of the States, by the Advice of some Rascally Fellows that were of the Council, and now began to challenge a great Power over the King and Kingdom: And because she found this could not be done without a mutual Reconciliation, and a mutual Reconciliation could not be maintained, but by a Calm of Peace, in which Men might be accustomed to one another's Humours; She plied all her Engines to confound the Agreement, and to kindle and renew the faint and stounded Eonities of Religion: And perswaded the King to make that goodly Progress to Bayonne, in which he was at an infinite Expence,

An. 1565.
*The King
 and Queens
 Progress to
 Bayonne.*

Expense, pretending to shew her son all the parts of his Kingdom; but she was influenced by designs far wider of this; for she encouraged in all the Provinces and Towns every Seditious Fellow, with hopes of Reward and Preferment to destroy the *Hugonots*, and in that Expedition created a great many of them Nobles, and likewise designed to consult of means with the Duke of *Alva* of putting things in Confusion. Let every one judge with what excellent Counsel that everlasting Enemy of *France* assisted her, to our utter Destruction.

At her return from this Progress, having thus disposed her Affairs, she comes to *Moulins*, and in the first place, according to *Alva's* Counsel, endeavoured to catch the *Salmons* and next the *Frogs*: She solicits the Admiral and *Andelot* to come to Court, where the Prince

A Plot to destroy the Hugonots.

of

of Conde was, that she might all under one cut them off. But they prudently and cunningly enough laid the ground of their Excuse on these old Variances they had with the *Guises*, and believed they could not be safe there, by reason of them. She therefore Summons them both to come to *Moulins*, that she might reconcile them, but in hopes that they in some rencounter should fight, or for the time to come no Excuse should be left the *Chatillons*, that the business not being composed, they came not to Court. In sum the Queen thought by such a kind of Reconcilement, to turn their open Enmity into a secret Rancour, or to catch an Opportunity of casting off either the one or other Party. But was deceived in her Opinion, for they came with such a Brain, and were with so much respect received by the Constable, that nothing was attempted against them. But new

Lodg-

Lodgings were found out for them, that they might not all meet together.

So the Queen returns to her old wonted Course, sends for Six thousand *Suisses* to guard *France*, as she feigned, against *Alva's* Army, which at that time was marching thorough the Confines of the Kingdom. But these *Helvetian* Troops were raised for a quite contrary end (seeing *Alva's* Army, before their Arrival, had marched by, and might have been kept off by the *French* themselves.)

And therefore she has a mind to beset and fall upon the Prince of *Conde* all on a sudden. But the Prince, *la Roche-furyon* being, after his return from *Bayonne*, moved with the Misery of the future Calamities, and nigh to Death, sent to the Prince of *Conde* his Cousin,

La Roche-furyon reveals it to he Conde.

he had concealed it to this time, for fear, if he had revealed it, he should have been the cause of new Tumults. And because he perceived it now advanced towards its Execution, declared himself willing to disburthen and free his Conscience, that it might not be thought to be his Fault, that so many Persons of Quality, amongst whom he had near Relations, were to be so pitifully Murdered.

What this Prince spoke, was of his own knowledge, for he was with the Queen all the time of the Progress, and one of her Confederates; but after the Conference held at *Bayonne*, thoroughly weighing and considering the Consequence of so Damnable a Contrivance, united himself closer to the Prince of *Conde*, and would have given him his Niece, the Widow of the Duke of *Nevers* in Marriage,

riage, with the best part of his
Estate.

Moreover the Mareschal of *Bordillon* dying at *Fountainbleau*, told many of his Friends, that he was willing to dye, for within half a Year so great Confusions and Com-motions should rise, throughout the whole Kingdom, that none could think himself safe. The Signs of these were most evident, and revealed by the Heads them-selves of the Conspiracy. And be-sides about that time the *Saiffes* marching into *France*, a miserable *Flagonot* having fallen asleep behind the Hangings of the Chamber, where the Council was held, heard the whole manner of performing the Plot. The Council of *Trent* was to be assembled, the *Saifs* har-nessed to the Court, that Provision might be made to force those that would not assent unto it.

Bordillon
tells it to his
Friends.

There

The History of the Life of

There happened an Alemain
Quarrel, by the Queens Procure-
ment, between the Duke of Anjou
and the Prince of Conde, at whom
the Duke drew a Dagger, and
hardly could the Prince get away
from that place, to shun the Snare
that were laid for him under
colour of Hunting. Now it was
that Prince Portian was taken off
by the Scent of a pair of Gloves
poisoned by Art of Renate. And
daily some body was sought out, that
by the same way might dispatch
the rest.

Prince Por-
tian poi-
soned.

The Prince of Conde seeing these
Effects of the Conspiracy, resolved
with his Party, who were much
restrained in the Exercise of their
Religion, to take Arms, whatever
might be the Issue of it. Now be-
cause the Queen had affirmed all
these Tricks to have proceeded
from the Guises, she went to Meaux,
where the Court then was, to
banish

banish the *Guises* from it; but they being informed of her coming, suddenly betook themselves thence.

*The Guises
fly from
Court.*

Now a second War breaks out in *France*, and we blame much the Prince of *Conde* and his Party for it. I do not excuse them, but rather wish they had carried themselves otherwise. Yet whoever will consider the Danger their Lives were in, will chiefly charge it on the Queens pernicious and rough Counsels, for she meant, contrary to the publick Faith given them, contrary to the King's Word, which ought to be instead of Truth, to root them up. And as in quarrelling, he that first draws his Sword, and not he who gives the first Blow, by Law, is found Guilty. So in this case, the first Transgressor of the Articles of Peace, should be esteemed the cause of all the Miseries done by the other Party.

*The Queen
Mother a-
gain the
Author of
the War.*

The *Hugonots* thereupon having gathered some small Forces toge-

F

ther

then march'd in haste towards Paris, and after a Council of War, engag'd in Battle, in which not a few of the Nobility on both sides were killed: The Constable being mortally wounded was brought to Paris: He a few days before had chid the Prince of Conde in a Discourse they had of the Articles of Peace; and now was by the deadly Wound he had received, nigh to Death. Could not the Wounds he received have provoked him to Revenge? No, notwithstanding these, he having more regard to the publick Peace than his own Life, and yielding more to Reason than the Violence of Passion, earnestly prays the Queen to make a peace as soon as she could, and intreats her as much as he could, if she consulted the safety of the Kingdom, upon no account to raise any commotion in it; for she might see how much the State of the Nation was weakened because of the loss of
 so

The Constable before his Death prays the Queen to make a Peace.

so many of the Nobility. But all this was in Vain, for the same arguments by which he persuaded her to peace, she made use of, to excite a War. And by the same methods promised her self security, from which he foresaw the ruin of the Nation. But now she is rid of this troublesom Man, and none is ignorant, after what manner she lamented him, and with what Grief she was moved for his Death, seeing she endeavoured every way to bring his Death, as she had his Life, into the Dislike and ill Opinion of all Men.

Soon after the German Troops arrived that both Parties had sent for to their Assistance. But Katharine distrusted those that Duke John William Son in Law to the Elector Palatine of Saxony, brought her, because he was of the Ausbourgean Confession. The Prince of Conde hoped to take Chartres, and with the Riches of it, to pay off his

*The Queen
is for Peace.*

German Troops. Therefore the Queen calls about for Peace; and appoints the *Memorandies* to solicit it. Because the *Hugonots* now were distrustful of her Sincerity, she granted them many things, and with a thousand Oaths and Exemptions, promised never to break that Peace; and moreover brings the King to swear to it: As if it were a Jest to promise on the Word of a King; and but a light Crime for a King, and the most Christian King, to violate his Faith.

Peace made

By this Treaty the Peace is made and confirmed, but for what end it soon appeared: That the Prince of *Conde* might disband his Army, and send his Foreign Forces away, and let every one go to his home, which he failed not to do within the time agreed on, while she was mustering up Methods to renew the War. I hope none can be found, who will not acknowledge with me, that either nothing was

to be promised the *Hugonots*, or if
promised them, it ought to have
been performed. For that we keep
our word to any, it is not for the
sake of him, but rather from an
Owe to God, to whom we engage
ourselves, whom also we call to be
witnesses of our Transactions. Besides,
what will become of all Humane
Transactions, if Faithfulness, the only
Cement of Concord, be so little re-
garded, I do not understand. We
have seen the King of Hungary, for
violating his Faith to the *Turks*, by
the Advice of a Cardinal, tumbled *Examples*
from his Throne. And that we may *of Perfidy.*
not go far off for an Instance,
there is none of us Ignorant of
what happened to our selves, when
by the Perswasion of Pope *Caraffi*,
we broke our Promise to the Em-
peror and King of *Spain*: History
is full of such Examples. What-
ever may be doubtful, this is cer-
tain, none can falsifie his Oath
without grievously offending God

The History of the Life of

in the first place, and next sinning against his own Reputation. And if this can be said of a private Person, how much more may it be said of a King, who ought to be like the Temple of Faith, chiefly to his own Subjects, whom as the best Father, he should love, and like the skillfulest Physician, take care of the Infirm.

Now let us see how the Queen kept her Promise, and how careful she was, that the King should observe his Oath. She ordered Guards and Watches to be set at all the Bridges, Fords and Passages of the Rivers, that the *Hugonots* might not gather together: And in *July* obtained a Bull from the Pope (the Peace was concluded in *March*, some time was spent in procuring the Bull) by which leave was given to sell the Value of 50000 Livres of the Church-Revenue, on promise it should be spent in the utter Extirpation of them; which the

Chan-

The Church
Revenues
sold to
maintain
the War.

Chancellor de l'Hospital greatly dis-
 proved, and on a certain time said
 boldly in Council, *That it would*
much derogate from the King's Ho-
mour and Reputation, for as much as
Foreign Nations would apprehend that
the King, under a disguise of Peace,
did designedly lye in Ambush for the
Hugonots: For which Freedom of
 speaking he lost the Seals.

The Queen about this time or-
 dered some Companies of Foot to
 be sent to beset the Prince of Conde's
 House, and also the Admiral's and
 Andelot's, to take them Prisoners
 within the time concluded in the
 Treaty, and pursued them every
 where; she contrived and laid for
 them a thousand Snares. At length
 sent Gohaxio to Burgundy to seize
 the Prince at Noyers, and the Ad-
 miral at Tanly, in which Expedi-
 tion Tauanes was sent his Assistant.
 But it happened that some of Tau-
 anes's Letters were found and car-
 ried to the Prince; in which he

The Queen
design'd to
take the
Prince of
Conde and
Admiral.

wrote to the Queen, that the wild
Beast was incared, and desired
to know her Pleasure when he
should dispatch that whole Affair.
Whereupon the Prince and the
Admiral, with their whole Families,
fled in the night, and having forded
the River Loire, marched to Rochel.
The Town only free from a Garison
where they arrived about September.

They escape
to Rochel.

At the News of the Arrival of
the Prince and Admiral, all their
Party began to rise in Arms and
assemble together, to secure them
from the Treacheries of the Queen.
And now we are as deeply as ever
plunged into War by the Perfidy
of that one Medicea, which like a
Mischievous Surgeon, for her own
Gain, would never let our Wounds
be bound up. Observe, I pray
you, to what Methods she now
applied her self, (being carried on
with Furious Malice) when she
found her self to have missed her
aim.

A new War.

Trea-

Treachery has been always abominable to all Persons that have had any Tincture of Religion; and of all sorts of Treachery, they have most had in Indignation Poisoning, and would not use it against their most hateful and malicious Enemies. But it was Katharine's Delight, she sought out *Italians* to poison the Prince of Conde's whole Army, that it all might in one day be stifled. She supplied a certain Person with 10000 Livres to buy Drugs for that purpose. She engaged some Servants of the Prince, the Admiral, and Andelot, to poison their Masters, and engaged others to Assassinate them; and promised them great Rewards and Pensions for to do it. The Honours that were wont to be the distinguishing Characters of the best and Bravest, were now by her promised to Traitors and Assassins, if so they could perpetrate any of these Villanies.

The Queen design'd to Poison all the Prince of Conde's Army. And the Admiral and Andelot.

In the first Engagement of this War,

The History of the Life of

War the Prince of Conde falling under his Horse, was taken Prisoner by *Argentan*, and so came under his Protection. But immediately upon the News of it, *Montesqueou* Captain of the Duke of Anjou's Guard was dispatched, who against the Laws of War, and contrary to the promise of Protection made him, killed him in cold Blood, without any regard of his Royal Descent. The Admiral and *Andelot* his Brother escaped from that Overthrow, but were at a Feast some time after set upon by Poyson, of which the one died, and the other fell deadly Sick; the Villain that did it, confessed when he suffered, that he was put upon it by the Queen. Soon after this she suborned *Dominick Alvan* Groom of the Chamber to the Admiral, who was taken Prisoner by us going from the Admiral to the Duke of *Deuxponts*, and gave him a most subtle Poyson in a Purse, with a very sharp pointed

Poysoning.

pointed Sword, that with one of them (as the miserable Wretch, when taken and convicted, confessed) he might kill his Master. Yet the Queen did not give over, for Montrevilly demanded the Office, but finding he could not without certain Peril execute it, to satisfy the Queen, he killed his own Captain and Patron. And she, to encourage him to greater Attempts for the time to come, gave order to settle on him for that notable Villany a Pension. So no Method, how cursed soever, if by it she could destroy those she hated, was to her unlawful or dishonest, so that she could take off those she hated. Yet we must not think her thus to have been set on fire for the sake of Religion, for they that act against the Dictates of Nature, are void both of Religion and Conscience: But it was the unaccountable Lust of Hatred that inflamed her, and made her thus rage against our Nobles.

While

*Parallel of
the present
French
Kings Pra-
dise.*

The History of the Life of

Assistance
comes to the
Hugonots.

While the Queen is imployed in these Barbarous Plots, News are brought her, that the Duke of *Deuapont* is on his march with Seven thousand Horse for the Assistance of the *Hugonots*, whose Cause seemed just to the Princes of *Germany*, for the many Treacherous Dealings they had heard had been used towards them who professed the same Religion.

Aumale ordered to
fight.

The Duke of *Aumale* at this time commanded an Army on the Confines of *France*, and was ordered by the Queen, at what hazard so ever, to fight the *Germans* in their march. He in a Council of War acquainted his chief Officers with her Commands, who not without ground marvelled much, that the Queen would venture the *French* Nobility against a Foreign Army, that in all Appearance was so strong, that without great loss of the *Catholicks* they could not overcome, and though they should, yet the whole

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whole Hugonot Army in France still remained intire. After much Debate they resolved not to fight. The Queen blamed ~~him~~, and to bring him into Disgrace, said many reproachful things of him to the King, and imputed to him the loss of La Charite, and all the Mischiefs the German Troops did in France. So not to fight at a venture with a more powerful Enemy was counted Cowardize, because it was the Queens command they should, and she reckoned it Treason not to expose the French Nobility, and force them to the Drudgery of Slaves: If any would thoroughly understand this, he may easily see it in the History of our Civil Wars.

He is blamed by the Queen.

x

For in the Buffle of this third War, which was more Cruel, and lasted longer than the former two, there were two sharp Engagements, in both which the Queen was present, and like another *Megara*, often encouraged and set on the Soldiers.

A third Civil War.

In this War we had many Bouts and light Skirmishes, many Towns were storm'd, and strange Exploits of War practis'd, in which who is able to reckon the number of Nobles, the brave Captains, and experienced Soldiers, that on both sides were killed? Yet who is he that saw the Queen concerned for our Misery? That she was pleas'd with the Overthrow of the *Hugonots* was not strange; but who could perceive in her the least signs of Sorrow for the Death of the Count of *Brissac* or Mr. *de Martigues* and many more, the loss of whom the best did lament? Who ever saw her moved for the common Calamities, or troubled at any ill News? Yea, she rather was joyful if she heard but of the Death of two or three *Hugonots*, though purchas'd with the Blood of a hundred Persons of Quality, which they who brought the News of such an Overthrow too clearly perceived. Wherefore we may say
her

her Deportment was such on no other account, but that having braverly cut off some, she might triumph over the rest. And therefore no marvel she was pleased with such Game, for one that is secure of his Play, desires nothing more than Gaming.

But yet *France* was at length, after so great Slaughter both of the Nobility and common Soldiers, brought once more to think of Peace, for *Germany* threatened us, and we were jealous of *England*; Variance and Envy had possessed our Army, the Nobility grew weary and languished, the People could not pay the Taxes. Peace therefore, after all our Quarrellings, must be called back. See pray where is our Advantage in this Affair; we must acknowledge that the *Hugonots* had right to take up Arms, and if it be so, we have in this War cut off the Kings Loyal Subjects, are obliged to pay the *German* Troops, and restore

The Hugonots had reason to take up Arms.

The History of the Life of

store a Free Exercise of Religion. And moreover, the Royal Word proving Suspicious, (for who could now believe it,) four Towns are to be rendered to them in Pledge of the Peace renewed again; had it not been better to have left every one to his Liberty, as at first it was by the Convention of States decreed, and in the mean time to have treated the *Hagonots* with mild Discourses, and good Arguments, to reduce them to the Catholick Religion, than for the Pleasure of a wicked Woman to have sheathed our Swords in one anothers Bowels?

But if ever a Peace that had regard to the Prince's Promise was to be observed, without question this must be; for in Confirmation of it, the King and his Brothers, together with this *Meditea*, likewise every one of the Ministers of the Crown, Counsellors and Presidents of Court, the great Council, the Lieutenants of the Counties, the chief Magistrates

strates and Senators of the City of Paris, in Council bound themselves with a solemn Oath: The Queen of England and Princes of Germany had sent Ambassadors to Charles to congratulate his Marriage contracted with the Emperor's Daughter, to whom he and his Mother promised carefully and Religiously to keep that Peace, which was necessary to heal the Wounds of the whole Nation. In sum, nothing more remained to give us Assurance of it. But the Queen exposed the Royal Promise, to the Contempt and Scorn of Foreign Nations, and branded the Princes and great ones of the Kingdom with a perpetual Mark of Perjury.

France
branded
with Per-
fidy.

Now while the Queen of Navar, and Ring-leaders of the Hugonots, continued at Rochel, until the Fury of the Mobb should abate; This horrible Queen-Mother could not be quiet, but still made some Essay, to exercise and satiate her most Devilish Inclination. Now she designed to

G

destroy

destroy the Duke of *Guise*, who for her sake had readily and willingly, in all the War (as every one knows) undergone so many Hazards. *Margaret* her Daughter seemed to be in love with him as the noblest Youth about the Court, and most acceptable to all, and who had given great Proofs of his Courage, and promised great things. The Queen therefore put a Fancy into the King and the Duke of *Anjou's* Head, that the Duke of *Guise* pretended to Marry their Sister; and said it was unsufferable that such a Spark should dare to aspire to the Marriage of the Sister of his Prince: And so much aggravated that Attempt, that they resolved on his Death; and the Duke of *Anjou* (who once intirely loved him) was willing to perform the Design, and laid wait for him in a Gallery to stab him with a Dagger, as he was passing along; yet remembering the good Offices he had done him, gave over that Enterprize.

*The Queens
design to
kill the
Duke of
Guise.*

prize. A few days after, the King being prevailed on by the Importunity of his Mother, gave a Sword and Dagger to the Grand Prior his Bastard Brother, with an order, that when he went in Procession, he should ride next to him; and if *Guise* should interpose himself, he should set on him; and gave order to some to be assisting to him: But as they went, *Guise*, as he was wont, ranged himself next the King; but the Grand Prior, though he had prepared to fall upon the Duke, whether because of their former Friendship, or for the uncertainty of the Issue of such an Attempt, would not venture on him. Wherefore the King afterwards looked on the Grand Prior with a sower Countenance, and had mean thoughts of him: The Queen reproached him with his Birth, and said, *That it would be a strange thing if ever he performed a brave Action.*

About this time the Duke of Anjou made Suit of Marriage to the

The Cardi-
al of Cha-
tillon poi-
soned by the
Queens
means.

Queen of England by the Cardinal of *Charillon*, who when he was thinking to return into *France*, was poisoned by one *Guillin* Groom of his Chamber, by the Perswasion of Queen *Katharine*; as the wretched Rogue being to suffer at *Roche* (who was apprehended under Suspicion of an Assassin) freely confessed. This Reward the Cardinal received for his great Kindness to her, when she was forsaken of all, and under an almost incurable Distemper, who prevailed so powerfully on her, that for her Barrenness she was not sent back to *Florence*.

Now the King was to be married to the Emperor's Daughter, to whose Marriage the Queen invited the *Hugonots* to seize them, and wrote to the Pope by the Cardinal of *Senen*, praying his Holiness, not to put any sinistrous Interpretation on the Articles of Peace granted to them; for she had taken this short cut, that she might the more easily ensnare

ensnare them, and if they had come to the Solemnity the Business had been done. But because the Fury of the People was not as yet calmed, they took an occasion to excuse themselves for their not coming to Court. She therefore endeavoured to settle every where the Stirs, and thinking at length to allure them, counterfeited her self resolute to punish some of the boldest Seditious Persons. But finding that her former Proceedings rendered her present Actions suspect, and that she had got the Name and Character of her Uncle *Clement*, that her Promises could not be believed; Now she made use of the King, by whom as one Engine, she wrought all her Tricks, that she might not be distrusted. Therefore she puts the King, amongst other things, on offering two Proposals to the *Hugonot* Lords; one was the making War with *Spain* for the Conquest of *Flanders*, and the other a Marriage of his Sister

The History of the Life of

Margaret to the King of Navar, both which she so dexterously managed, that she obtained her design,

Hitherto I have traced my Author in the History of this Queen, to the Barbarous and Bloody Scene of the Massacre of *France*, of which she was the Contriver, Promoter and Spectator, of which there is no Parallel, unless the Croisade of the present *French* King's Dragooning, Tho' my Author is the Exactest in the Relation of that Tragedy, yet seeing we have many full Relations of it already in our own Language, I shall skip it over, and proceed to the rest of her Life,

The Queen had, for the Malice the *Guises* bore the Admiral, imployed them in executing this horrid Butchery, and now having obtained her end, charged them as the sole Authors of it, both to excuse to Foreign Princes her base Perfidy, and also to get them banish'd from Court, and then condemned for Traytors, Violators of the publick

The Queen charges the Guises as Authors of the Massacre, and raises quarrels between them and the Memorancies,

publick Peace, and Forcers of the Kings Guards (for the King had ordered Guards to be set at the Admiral's Lodgings, under pretence of his Safety.) And she likewise, knowing the *Memorancies* to have been nearly related to the Admiral, and great Lovers of him, tells them, that they ought not to suffer his Death to go unrevenge'd. So a grievous Enmity falls between the *Memorancies* and the *Guises*. And on whatever Party the Misfortune should fall, so one of them perish'd, she reckon'd it advantage to her self. But it happened otherwise than she projected, for the two Families were reconciled, and the *Guises* never left the King, until in Council he approved what they had done; and they privately told the Duke of *Memorancy*, that they would never have committed such a thing, had they not been by an expresse Order of the King commanded, and excused themselves thereby, charging that whole Villany on the Queen-Mother,

The King,
Queen-Mo-
ther and
Retz Con-
trivers of
the Massa-
cre.

who by the Count of Retz and others, solicited *Maurevell* to shoot the Admiral.

Yet this Furious *Medea*, not satisfied with the Bloodshed in this Tragedy, complained, that the King had so few Subjects who loved him, that he could not all at once make a full end of the *Hugonots*. Therefore she puts him on besieging *Rochel*, which charge was given to the Duke of *Anjou*, but he being chosen King of *Poland*, left the Siege to go to that Kingdom. And the King his Brother, at his return from *Vitray* (so far he convoyed the Duke) fell sick; the Physicians suspected his Distemper had its rise from Poison, or something which they termed (*Sauce for a Pike*) and told his Mother, he would die before *April* expired. And the Fortune-tellers, to whom the Queen gave great credit, confirmed the same: Then care must be taken for this Change.

The Queen having perceived that her Son, the Duke of *Alanson*, disapproved

Charles
falls.

proved her Cruelty and Fierceness, and took ill the Nobility were destroyed, himself contemned, for the King, by her Advice, had refused him the place his Brother the Duke of *Anjou* had, and that Wars were fomented to the inevitable Ruin of the People and Kingdom, hated that generous Prince and lover of his Country, whose Disposition could never comply with her, and conjecturing the King could not live long, knew the Administration, in the absence of the King of *Poland*, belonged to him as next Heir to the Regency; for no thoughts could be entertained of the King of *Poland's* returning, having by Oath bound himself not to forsake that Crown, tho his Brother the King of *France* should die.

The Queen hated the Duke of Alanson.

Therefore this crafty Queen, to obtain for her self the Regency, and deprive *Alanson* of it, to whom of right, according to the ancient Salick Law, it appertained, endeavoured by Calumnies and false Reports of conspiring with the *Hugonots*, who again were

now

And deprives him of the Regency.

The History of the Life of

Alancon
and the
King of Na-
var made
Prisoners.

now up in Arms, to render him odious to the Catholicks, and prevailed with the King to give order to disarm his Guard, and send himself and the King of Navar Prisoners to Bois de Vincennes. Which the proud-hearted Duke much resenting, contrived, with some of his Favorites, to make his escape to Count Lewis of Nassau: But the design being discovered, he and the King of Navar were made close Prisoners. Coconas and La Mole were without any proof or evidence condemned. And to make her Accession easie to the Regency now in prospect, sent orders to secure Damville in Dauphine; and thinking her orders had been executed, sent the Mareschals of Memorancy and Cassé to the Bastile. The Prince of Conde prevented her by flying into Germany.

An. 1574.

The Queen
proclaimed
Regent.

- On May 30. Charles died, and immediately after the Queen-Mother went to Paris, and as soon as she came to the Louvre, ordered the Gates of the City to be shut, and the Guards doubled, and her self to be proclaimed Regent in

in the Absence of her Son *Henry* King of *Poland*. She sent for the Duke of *Alencon* and King of *Navar*, and shut them up close Prisoners in the *Loivre*, yet granted them the liberty, to divert the tediousness of their Imprisonment, to converse with her Women, whose Apartments were open to them. This method she often practised to amuse the Princes of the Blood. She dispatched *Barbezer Chemerald* to acquaint *Henry* with the Death of his Brother *Charles*, and desire him with all hast to return to *France*, to be invested with the vacant Throne: *Francis* approved his Mothers Regency in his absence, and she, though of an unquiet Spirit, and much inclined to prosecute the War she had raised against the *Hugonots*, whom still she sought to destroy, yet by the Counsels of some, and Apprehensions that this Son would not be so governable as the late King, yielded to a Cessation of Arms for two Months, and the Truce to be continued at the Pleasure of the King,

King, who arrived the fifth of September following at the Borders of France, whom the Queen there met, and was much rejoyced to see him attended by Persons she well knew would dissolve him into Pleasures, amongst which was *Bellegarde*, who told her all her Sons secret Intentions, and for that Service she procured him a Mareschals Staff, and the command of the Army raised against the *Hugonots*. Now the Duke of *Alanson* and King of *Navar* were set at Liberty. But Jealousies by the means of some Favourites were so raised in the Kings Mind in the time of his Sickness, that he kept a secret Watch over his Brother.

There were two Parties in the Kings Council, the one laboured for Peace and composing the Differences and Quarrels that had cost so much Blood, and brought the Kingdom to great Misery: The other were for continuing the War, and rooting out the *Hugonots*. The Queen persisted in
her

her former Methods and Policy, and strove to make her self necessary to both Parties, that she might keep her self in the Government and maintain her Authority. Therefore contrived the Duke of *Alanson's* stealing away from Court, and joyning the Prince of *Conde*. The *Hugonots* suspecting the Mother had some mysterious Trick to serve them in sending her Son, for she her self had come to them to bring him back, her lost Son, as she said, and disliking the Duke's changeable Humour, feared in this there was some Inchantment; and indeed the Conjecture was not unnatural, for after the Duke had joyned them, the Army made slow Advances, Discords fell out amongst them, the Prince of *Conde* was dissatisfied he was not chief Commander. And so the dexterous Queen forced them to a Capitulation with the King, which ushered in the Holy League, of which the Duke of *Guise* was Head, who was by order of the King murdered

Alanson
goes to the
Hugonots.

The History of the Life of

thered in the Castle of *Blois*, to the Design of which barbarous Action, some conjectured the Queen-Mother to have been privy. Now we are come to the last Scene of *Katharinas* Life, who a little before the Death of the Duke and Cardinal, had been recovered of a Feverish Indisposition, but was at the surprising News the King brought her of the Duke's Death, put in a Consternation, and after that so much troubled with the bitter Expressions of the Cardinal of *Bourbon*, her old Friend, who reproached her in a Visit she made him, telling her, she had brought the Duke of *Guise*, himself, and the rest of the good Catholicks (so the Leaguers called themselves) to the Shambles, that she relapsed and fell into a Commatous Distemper, of which she died *January* the Fifth. The King dutifully attended her, and *Sangerman* a Divine, a Person of a Noble Family, whom *Henry* for his great Learning, Piety and sweet Dispo-

The Queen-
Mothers
Death,
An. 1589.

Disposition had ordered to Minister to her Spiritual Comfort. And she who all her Life-time had too much observed Astrologers, now might, if her drowsie Distemper had not deprived her of Sense, have seen the Mockery of their dark Predictions, for being by them desired to beware of *St. German*, she, to elude the Prediction, carefully shunned all places of that name, of which there are not a few in *France*: Yet at her Death *San-German* was by her. She was a Person of an unlimited Ambition and Pride, who from the Commotions she often raised, and composed together, with the Jealousies and Enmities that for thirty Years raged betwixt the Nobles, made the Advantage of centering in her self, in that publick Calamity, the whole Authority of the Government; and to attain her ambitious Designs with Masculine thoughts, exchanged the Imperfections of her Sex. She was Prodigal both in Peace and War, and

Character
of Katharine
de Medicis.

no sooner had the Subjects respite from intestine Broils, but she vexed them with unreasonable Taxes to make Provision for imaginary Kingdoms to her Sons, for the Astrologers told her she should see them all Kings. Her Body was carried to St. *Salvator's* Chappel, and afterwards was buried in St. *Dennis*.

F I N I S.

